

These two revelations may be disturbing but learning about our Nation's past, disturbing as it might be, to teach us how to govern in the future is the essence of democracy. And this is the essence of the resolution we are debating today. We can never heed Santayana's warning that, and I quote, "Those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it," if we do not have the proper historical tools.

Madam Speaker, yesterday Jews all over the world celebrated Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. This is a day of somber reflection about the past. In my district and in countless others, thousands of these individuals are survivors of the Holocaust and their families. These people can never escape the searing memories of what befell them half a century ago.

In passing this resolution, we honor the memory of those who died and the suffering of those who survived. In passing this resolution, we are taking a stand against those who insult humanity by denying the very fact that the Holocaust occurred. And in passing this resolution, we must pledge that before another year goes by, we will ensure that our government's full accounting of this terrible era and its aftermath is made public.

I ask my colleagues to support our resolution calling for the release of Nazi war crime files.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HORN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I received a letter from the chairman of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, our distinguished colleague, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. COMBEST]. I want to include that letter for the RECORD:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE,

Washington, DC, September 23, 1996.

Hon. STEPHEN HORN,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Government Management, Information, and Technology,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing to you regarding the War Crimes Disclosure Act, H.R. 1281. As reported, H.R. 1281, contained a number of provisions that would amend the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and would effect long standing federal case law and rule of judicial deference to intelligence and law enforcement executive agency expertise in national security matters.

The Committee is committed to declassifying older intelligence documents, in particular those pertaining to Nazi war criminals. I specifically requested that the Central Intelligence Agency review this legislation to reach an agreement satisfying the concerns of the intelligence agencies as well as meeting the public's right to receive information about Nazi criminals that may be contained within U.S. intelligence files.

I am in receipt of the Sense of Congress substitute for H.R. 1281 that reiterates the commitment we all feel concerning the disclosure of information related to Nazi war crimes. Recognizing that you and Representative Maloney desire to bring this legislation to the House floor expeditiously, the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence will forego its right to sequential referral in

this instance. Further, I am committed to working with you to craft new legislation that meets the desire of the American people to know about Nazi criminal acts while protecting legitimate national security interests.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

LARRY COMBEST,
Chairman.

Mr. HORN. Madam Speaker, I want to quote two paragraphs there that are relevant to the measure before us. Chairman COMBEST assures me:

The committee is committed to declassifying older intelligence documents, in particular those pertaining to Nazi war criminals. I specifically requested that the Central Intelligence Agency review this legislation to reach an agreement satisfying the concerns of the intelligence agencies as well as meeting the public's right to receive information about Nazi criminals that may be contained within U.S. intelligence files.

He goes on to say:

I am in receipt of the Sense of Congress substitute for H.R. 1281 that reiterates the commitment we all feel concerning the disclosure of information related to Nazi war crimes. Recognizing that you and Representative Maloney desires to bring this legislation to the floor expeditiously, the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence will forego its rights to sequential referral in this instance. Further, I am committed to working with you to craft new legislation that meets the desire of the American people to know about Nazi criminal acts while protecting legitimate national security interests.

Madam Speaker, I deeply appreciate the word of the chairman of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. As a citizen and as a Member of this Congress, I cannot imagine any executive branch under any administration wanting, after almost a half century has passed, to keep the files that relate to specific war crimes committed during the Second World War.

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Madam Speaker, this is a fine piece of legislation that the gentleman from New York [Mrs. Maloney] has offered. We are delighted to support it on this side.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. GREENE of Utah). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California [Mr. HORN] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1281, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to express the sense of the Congress that United States Government agencies in possession of records about individuals who are alleged to have committed Nazi war crimes should make these records public."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HORN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 1281, the important legislation just passed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

GRANTING CONSENT OF CONGRESS TO THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE COMPACT

Mr. GEKAS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 193) granting the consent of Congress to the Emergency Management Assistance Compact.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.J. RES. 193

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CONGRESSIONAL CONSENT.

The Congress consents to the Emergency Management Assistance Compact entered into by Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia. The compact reads substantially as follows:

"Emergency Management Assistance Compact"

"ARTICLE I.

"PURPOSE AND AUTHORITIES.

"This compact is made and entered into by and between the participating member states which enact this compact, hereinafter called party states. For the purposes of this compact, the term 'states' is taken to mean the several states, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia, and all U.S. territorial possessions.

"The purpose of this compact is to provide for mutual assistance between the states entering into this compact in managing any emergency disaster that is duly declared by the Governor of the affected state, whether arising from natural disaster, technological hazard, man-made disaster, civil emergency aspects of resources shortages, community disorders, insurgency, or enemy attack.

"This compact shall also provide for mutual cooperation in emergency-related exercises, testing, or other training activities using equipment and personnel simulating performance of any aspect of the giving and receiving of aid by party states or subdivisions of party states during emergencies, such actions occurring outside actual declared emergency periods. Mutual assistance in this compact may include the use of the states' National Guard forces, either in accordance with the National Guard Mutual Assistance Compact or by mutual agreement between states.

"ARTICLE II.

"GENERAL IMPLEMENTATION.

"Each party state entering into this compact recognizes that many emergencies transcend political jurisdictional boundaries and that intergovernmental coordination is essential in managing these and other emergencies under this compact. Each state further recognizes that there will be emergencies which require immediate access and present procedures to apply outside resources to make a prompt and effective response to such an emergency. This is because few, if any, individual states have all the resources they may need in all types of emergencies or the capability of delivering resources to areas where emergencies exist.